

**THE WESTGATE SCHOOL**

Hampshire's First 4-16 'All Through' School

# Year 11 Partners in Learning:

"How to support your child this year"



# Overview of the year

- **18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021- Peter Symonds open evenings**
- **11<sup>th</sup> November 2021- Eastleigh College open evening**
- **4<sup>th</sup> November 2021- Year 11 Parents evening**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021- Year 11 Mocks begin**
- **16<sup>th</sup> May 2021- Year 11 GCSE exams begin**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021-Year 11 GCSE exams end**
- **TBC- Year 11 Leavers Assembly**
- **TBC- Year 11 Prom**
- **25<sup>th</sup> August 2021-Results Day**

# Changes to the GCSEs this year

- NEA changes have already been put in place
- In addition:
  - In GCSE English Literature, Geography and History there will be optional topics and content.
  - In Science, required practicals can be done as hands on practicals or by teacher demonstration/video.
  - Art, Photography and Sculpture will be assessed 100% by their portfolio; there will be no exam.
  - Exam boards will release advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSEs (except English Literature, Geography and History). They have promised to do this by February 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - In Maths pupils will be given a formula sheet to take into the exams
  - In Science (Physics and Combined Science) pupils will be given an equation sheet covering all equations to take into the exam.
- Exam window will be slightly longer than usual (6 weeks) to ensure papers for each subject can be at least 10 days apart
- Grade boundaries will be adjusted to bring results 'halfway' between 2021 and 2019 results

# English Literature, History and Geography

English Literature	History	Geography
<p>Still two papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Paper 1</u>: Pre-nineteenth century text and modern text</li><li>• <u>Paper 2</u>: Macbeth and unseen poetry</li><li>• Pupils will NOT be assessed on power and conflict poetry – schools have been given the choice to remove either this, modern text or pre-nineteenth text. We chose poetry as it is the topic our pupils have traditionally struggled with most.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils will only be required to study 3 out of the 4 units we have studied</li><li>• We have decided to drop the Thematic Medicine topic</li><li>• Total exam time will be 3 hours rather than 4</li></ul>	<p><u>Paper 1</u>- No changes</p> <p><u>Paper 2</u>- Pupils are to answer all questions on Section A (Urban Issues and Challenges) and then will have a <i>choice</i> between either Section B (The Changing Economic World) or Section C (The Challenge of Resource Management). <b>We will be focussing on The Challenge of Resource Management.</b></p> <p><u>Paper 3</u>- No questions on the pupils' own fieldwork experience.</p>

# Contingency Planning

- Ofqual have every intention to run exams this year, however they are currently consulting on a contingency plan **IF** exams need to be cancelled.
- These plans are not yet confirmed, but will likely involve teachers assessing pupils using a range of evidence collected over the year, and producing a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG).
- These assessments would be of a similar nature to the normal exams – e.g. past papers, NEAs. They would be sat in similar conditions (e.g. timed, supervised, closed book).
- The assessments would be spread over the year, and a plan shared with pupils and parents if this happens.
- The Nov/Dec mocks would be used as part of the evidence to inform the TAGs.
- If exams are cancelled, we would need to introduce a series of additional mock exams over the Spring and Summer terms in order to collect assessment evidence.

# Mock Examinations

- 22<sup>nd</sup> November for 2 ½ weeks
- An experience to prepare pupils for the summer
- Full exam conditions apply, invigilators in place
- Teachers will share what to revise (and how) with pupils over the coming weeks
- Timetable will be on the School Website tomorrow, along with a paper copy given to pupils tomorrow in tutor time and shared digitally via Teams
- If your child needs to self-isolate during the mocks, Mr Howes will liaise with you so your child can sit their mocks from home (only if you're well) under controlled conditions.

# Timings

- Two exam slots each day:
  - The first exam starts at 8.35am. Go to registration first, then come to the village green. You won't have assembly on the first day.
  - The second exam starts at 11.15, straight after break.
- If you are not in an exam, you should follow your normal timetable and **be in lessons.**
- Lesson 5 has no exams.

Day	Date	Before break	After break
Mon	22-Nov	History 1 (1 hr)	RE (1 hr 45) German reading (Higher - 1 hr, Foundation - 45m) Latin Language (1hr 30) <b>Those who do 2 of these should do RE on 25 Nov before break</b>
Tue	23-Nov	French reading and Spanish reading (Higher - 1 hr, Foundation - 45m) <b>Those who do both languages should do Spanish reading on 24 Nov after break.</b>	Science 1 (Bio) (Combined sci = 1 hr 15; triple sci = 1 hr 45)
Wed	24-Nov	Maths 1 ( 1hr 30)	Drama (1hr 45) Computing 1 (2 hrs) Media (1hr 30) Spanish reading catch up only (1hr) <b>Those who do 2 of these subjects should do Media on Tues 30 Nov after break.</b>
Thu	25-Nov	Geography 1 ( 1 hr) <b>RE Catch up (1hr 45)</b>	Eng Lang 1 ( 1hr 45)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>26-Nov</b>	<b>INSET days</b>	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>29-Nov</b>		
Tue	30-Nov	Music (1 hr)	History 2 (2hr) <b>Media catch up only (1hr 30)</b>
Wed	01-Dec	PE 1 (1hr 15) Computing 2 (1hr 45) <b>Pupils who do both should do Computing on 02 Dec after break.</b>	Science 2 (Chem) (Combined sci = 1 hr 15; triple sci = 1 hr 45))
Thu	02-Dec	Maths 2 (1 hr 30)	Tech (2 hrs) Food Prep (1 hr 45) Latin Literature (1 hr 15) German writing (Higher - 1 hr 15, Foundation - 1hr) <b>Computing 2 catch up only (1hr 45)</b> <b>See note below for instructions if you do 2 of these subjects</b>
Fri	03-Dec	French writing and Spanish writing (Higher - 1hr 15m, Foundation – 1 hr) <b>Those who do both languages should do Spanish reading on 06 Dec before break.</b>	Eng Lang 2 (1hr 45)
Mon	06-Dec	Geography 2 ( 1 hr) <b>Spanish writing catch up (1hr 15)</b>	Science 3 (Phys) (Combined sci = 1 hr 15; triple sci = 1 hr 45)
Tue	07-Dec	Maths 3 (1 hr 30)	PE 2 (1hr 15)
Wed	08-Dec	Latin Roman Civilisation (1 hr) <b>Catch Up Slot 1</b>	<b>Catch up 2</b>
<b>NOTE if you do: Tech and Latin - do Tech in catch up slot 1 on 08 Dec</b> <b>Tech and German - do Tech in catch up slot 1 on 8 Dec</b> <b>Food Prep and German - do Food Prep in catch up slot 1 on 08 Dec</b>			

# Inside the exam room...

- Once inside, you must be in full exam conditions:
  - Don't speak to or disturb anyone else, do not communicate with other pupils - this includes non-verbally;
  - If you have a question, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to come to you;
  - Please *bring a mask* with you so you can put it on should you need to talk to an invigilator during the exam
  - Do not bring any notes, revision material or technological equipment (including phones/smart watches) in with you;
  - You must not bring a WATCH into the exam room, even if it isn't a smart watch!
  - You must follow **all** instructions given to you by the invigilators;
  - Don't touch your exam paper until you are told to do so;
- The invigilators will give you instructions so you know what to do.

# The consequences of breaking the rules...

- The exam board regulator (JCQ) is very strict, even with mock exams – the consequences of cheating, or breaking any of the rules in any way, can be severe.
  - You can...
    - Receive a written warning
    - Lose marks
    - Be disqualified from that particular paper
    - Be disqualified from the whole qualification
    - Be disqualified from ALL exams taken that year
    - Be barred from taking ANY exams for up to 5 years (including GCSEs, A-levels, vocational qualifications, driving tests – **everything**)
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# What to do if...

- **I feel unwell in the exam room?** Raise your hand and tell an invigilator.
- **I miss an exam due to being unwell?** When you return to school, go and find Mrs Ingram (office next to M11) and she will arrange another slot for you.
- **I haven't brought the equipment I need?** For the mock exams you must bring your own equipment, if you forget something you will NOT be lent it.
- **I discover my phone/watch/notes in my pocket once I sit down in the exam room?** Hand it in to an invigilator immediately – you must NOT wait until the exam starts.

# Mock Exam results

- Pupils will receive their marks and detailed feedback from their teachers during lessons in the weeks following the exams (Dec/Jan)
- Following departmental moderation, the *notional* grades will also be reported to parents in the Spring Full Report (4<sup>th</sup> Feb).

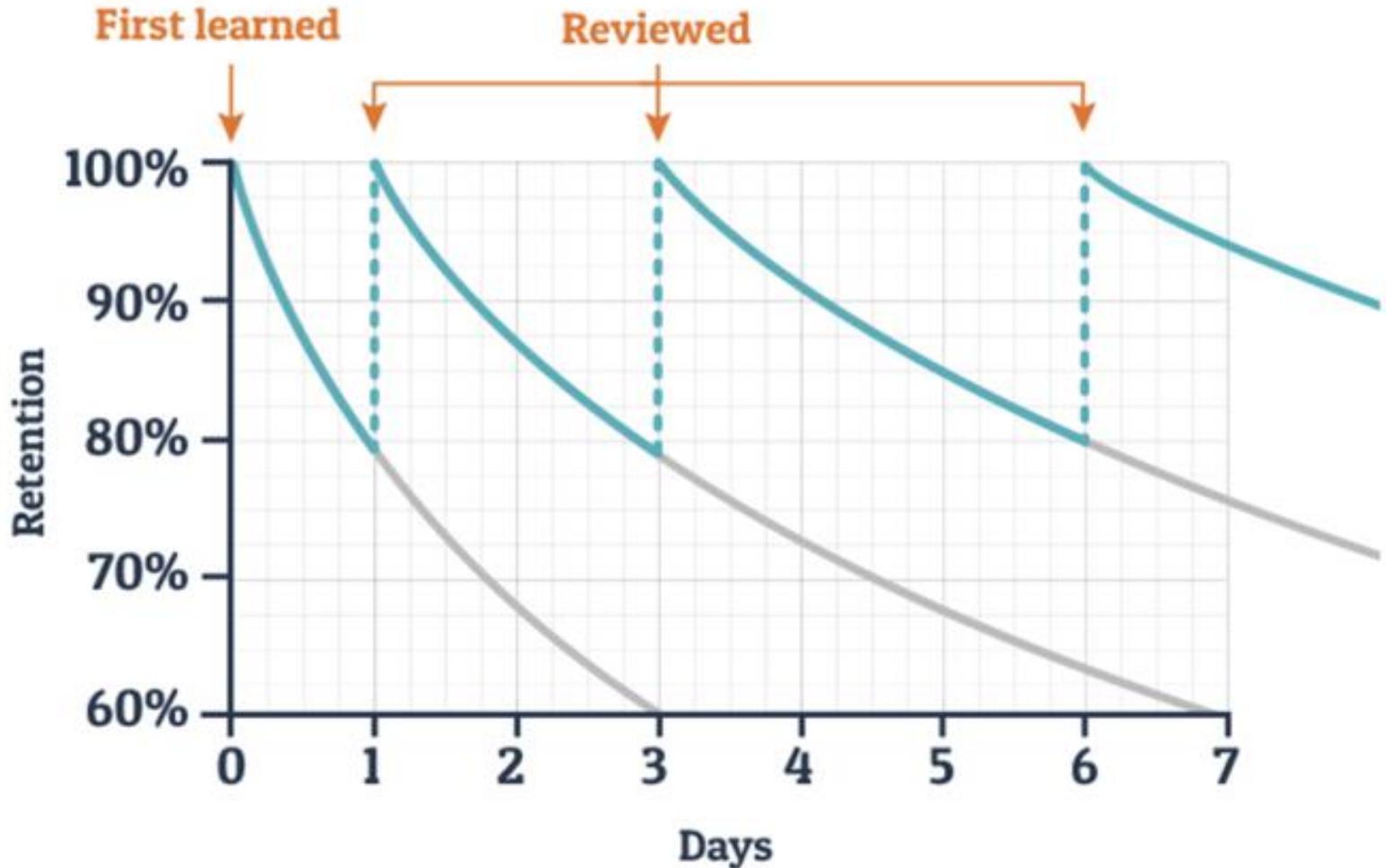
# Revision Techniques

*“I know WHAT to  
revise, but HOW do I do  
it?”*

How many can you remember? We  
will check later...



# The Ebbinghaus memory curve



You can see, the more you 'retrieve' something, the longer it takes for you to forget it...

# How to revise effectively

What do I need to learn?

Strengths and weaknesses?

- Checklists/ spec points
- Class book
- Revision guide
- Tests
- Traffic lighting work

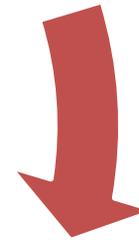
Audit



Develop/  
Deepen

Review and relearn content

- Use textbook, revision guides, class notes, ask teacher/ friends.
- Make revision notes/ mind maps/ poster



Embed/  
Apply

Make it stick and apply it

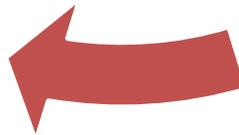
1. Exam questions
2. Workbook questions
3. Quizzes
4. Mind maps etc.



Review

How well did I do?

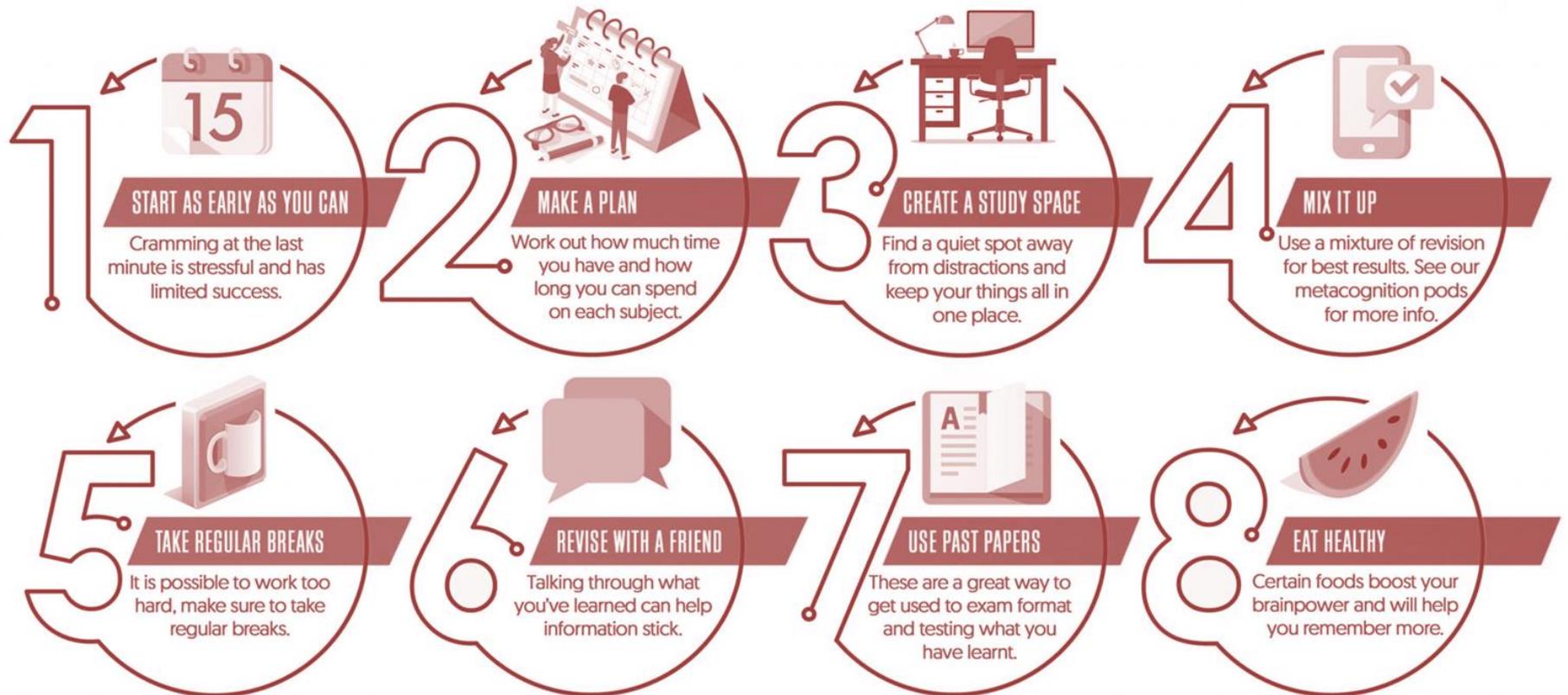
Mark your practice work.



# Review time!



# So how can we make the information stick?



## Revision should be personal to the individual

It doesn't have to all be flashcards and notes...

- *Do you always remember the plots of movies?* Revise by watching videos online.
- *Are you good at remembering song lyrics?* Download some revision podcasts.
- *Are you someone who learns by trying it out yourself?* Get hold of some example examination papers and try them out.

# Quick revision hack!



- The average smartphone user unlocks their phone up to 150 times per day.
- Use this to your advantage by photographing key revision points and setting it as your wallpaper. That way you will see it numerous times every day without meaning to!

- An effective revision plan needs to be sustainable.
- Revision planned around real life will often lead to a happier child and it can be maintained over time.
- Revising in the morning can often be powerful, as it is then done for the day.

		Revision Planner						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning								
Afternoon								
Evening								



Add in your sporting activities and social commitments first and work backwards!

# How many of the items can you remember now?



“To develop a community of learners who are aware of their personalities and own behaviours, who are able to identify strategies which enable them to support their own wellbeing.”



- Tactful
- Warm
- Friendly
- Dependable
- Co-operative
- Supportive
- Approachable
- Asks

- Chatty
- Sociable
- Entrepreneurial
- Spontaneous
- optimistic
- Creative
- Broad brush
- Risk taker

**Which set of words best describes your child?**

- Careful
- Persistent
- Thorough
- Analytical
- Systematic
- Patient
- Thinker
- Self-controlled

- Competitive
- Dynamic
- Tells
- Dominant
- Decisive
- Determined
- Gets lots done
- Takes charge



# **Pupils - If You're Nervous, Take It As A Positive Sign.**

Feeling nervous is the best indicator that what you are doing is important to you.

Whether it be the result or impressing those that are watching, or in this case, exams, if you are nervous, then there is a good reason for it.

# Pupils If You're Nervous, Take It As A Positive Sign.

We can help to reduce nerves using a range of different strategies:

**But most importantly – Practise, Practise, Practise.**

Rehearsing as much as possible, whether it's in front of a mirror, on your own or with a friend, is one of the best things you can do to avoid feeling nervous about a particular activity.

When you practise something, you strengthen the connections in your brain. The stronger those connections are, the more skilled you become at doing it. Not to mention, the more confident you feel about doing something, the easier it will be to do.

- Listening to Music

Eating and sleeping well.

Recognising and admitting how you are feeling.

# Parents - How **you** can support your child moving forwards?

## **Validate their feelings.**

*It is perfectly normal for pupils to feel stressed/under pressure/anxious . In fact it is a good thing, it means they care!*

## **Recognise them feeling under pressure.**

*Are you able to recognise them feeling under pressure, maybe you using the co-acting styles, and support them by taking some of this away. (reducing workload at home, taking them outside for a talk/walk or having a break)*

## **Ensure that they eat and drink.**

*Although this may seem obvious, often pupils forget how important this is!*

## **Support them to understand the importance of sleep.**

*With continued lack of sleep, the part of the brain that controls language, memory, planning and sense of time is severely affected, therefore increasing their feelings of pressure!*

## **Ensure they remain active.**

*Whether it is a run or a walk. Encourage pupils to engage in at least 30 minutes a day. It will help release the feel good hormones Endorphins.*

# Thank you for attending

**Please take a moment this evening to talk to your child about what you've heard**

**We would be grateful if you could complete the very quick survey by clicking on the link in the chat now 😊**